

Report on the patrol vessel 'Nerissa'
Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Quarterly report for the period May to August 2017

Priorities of vessel for quarter

- Check closed cockle areas
- Board and inspect cockle fishing vessels
- Patrol District for any large vessel infringement of byelaws
- Inspect gill and trammel netting vessels for compliance with EU gear legislation
- Inspect trawling vessels for EU gear legislation and catch composition
- Record data of all vessel sightings
- Record data of all fishing fixed nets and pots
- Input key enforcement information into national fisheries enforcement database (MCSS)
- Inspect lobster pots for compliance with byelaws and check potting vessels
- Shore enforcement
- Inspect oyster dredging vessels for byelaw compliance
- Check closed herring areas
- Check for compliance with whelk byelaws

Risk based fisheries enforcement

Over the quarter the patrol vessel has been busy hauling static gear and boarding vessels. Observations and checks on cockle vessels have been undertaken also.

Using the risk-based enforcement database, officers' knowledge and Information Reports has led to directed patrols taking place both at sea and ashore, giving good results. Officers have also worked closely with other agencies on dedicated patrols and sharing intelligence. The six-nautical mile limit has been patrolled for incursions by large/foreign vessels into our district. Closed areas have been monitored.

Fishing activity has been monitored throughout the district with Nerissa carrying out patrols in the Thames Estuary and up into the Thames, the River Medway, the Essex coast and both the North and South Kent coast. The RIB Nereus has gone on ahead of Nerissa into the Essex Estuaries for patrols.

Conservation/Survey work

The crew have all continued to contribute to the work relating to MPAs ashore. The vessel has undertaken cockle sampling work on the Kent coast sites and found to work very effectively. When required crew have gone up to assist with survey work on Tamesis and have also continued to assist with shore-based cockle surveys.

Statistics

From May to the end of August Nerissa has patrolled 1657 miles, boarded 39 vessels, issued 2 verbal warning, identified 146 fishing vessels, most of which have been sighted on several occasions and 24 of which were charter or private angling vessels. In the course of our patrols closed areas have been monitored and MCZ observed, 226 log records for sightings of collections of static gear amounting to nearly 422 fleets or individual markers. Fixed fishing gear has been inspected for compliance with bylaws and marking on 45 occasions with notices of offence or inspection attached and followed up with associated vessels ashore. Over the quarter approximately 240 seals have been sighted and 5 porpoises also seen.

RIB Nereus has undertaken 5 patrols from Ramsgate in her standalone capacity collecting information on fixed gear close to the shore adding an additional 13 vessel sightings, 3 boardings and 14 gear inspections with notices of offence or inspection attached.

Maintenance

The MAN main engines received their first service at just over 400 hours. All oils and filters were changed, heads tightened and clearances checked. Daily fluid checks have taken place logging and topping up when necessary. Monthly safety checks have also been undertaken.

An Invitation to the Authority Members

Authority members are welcome to contact the office regarding 'A day on patrol' out on Nerissa.

Ben Hermitage
Skipper FPV Nerissa